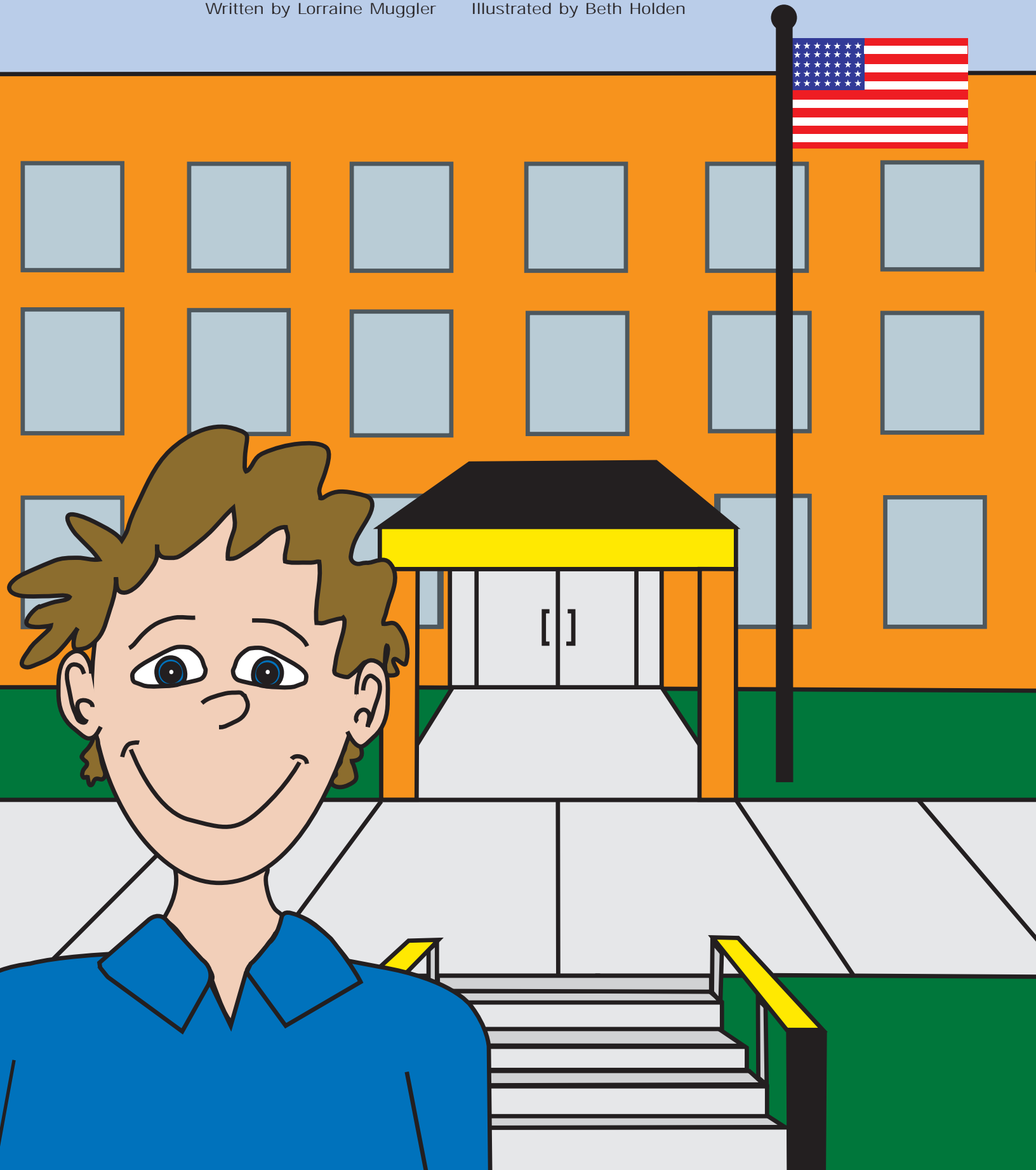


Alex Goes to Court

Written by Lorraine Muggler Illustrated by Beth Holden



This coloring book was developed as a tool to help young children better understand the Child In Need of Care system as it pertains to them. It is meant to guide children through what they may experience when a court date arrives. This book also provides an opportunity for interaction and dialogue between a child and his or her advocates and caregivers.

Many people helped make this coloring book possible. The Children's Advocacy Resource Center, a project of Kansas Legal Services, would like to thank: The United Methodist Health Ministries Fund, The Topeka Active 20-30 Club, and the students at the Washburn University School of Law for providing funding for the development and printing of the coloring book, and Friesen Design, Inc. for designing it. The text was written by Kansas Legal Services staff in collaboration with Lorraine Muggler. The illustrations were provided by Beth Holden.



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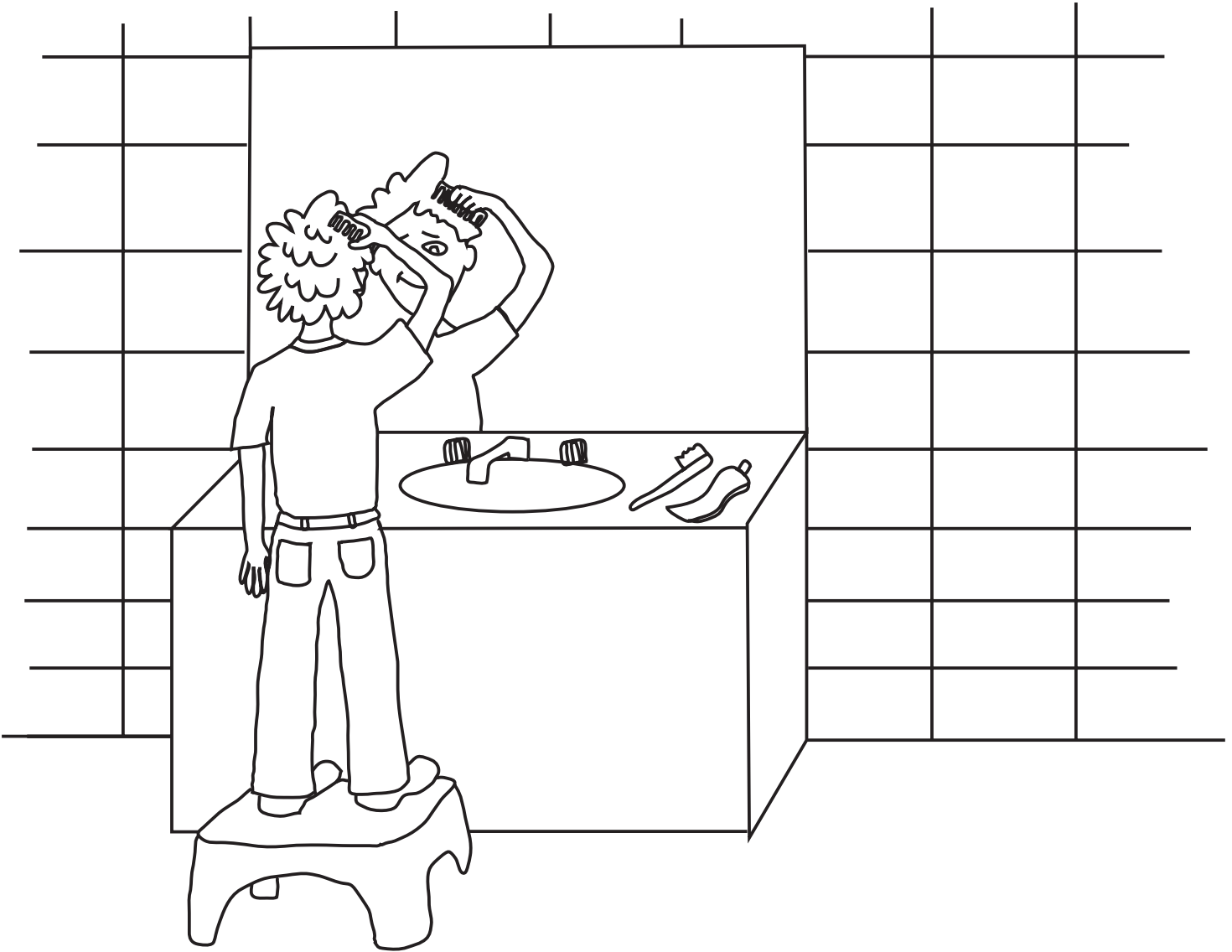
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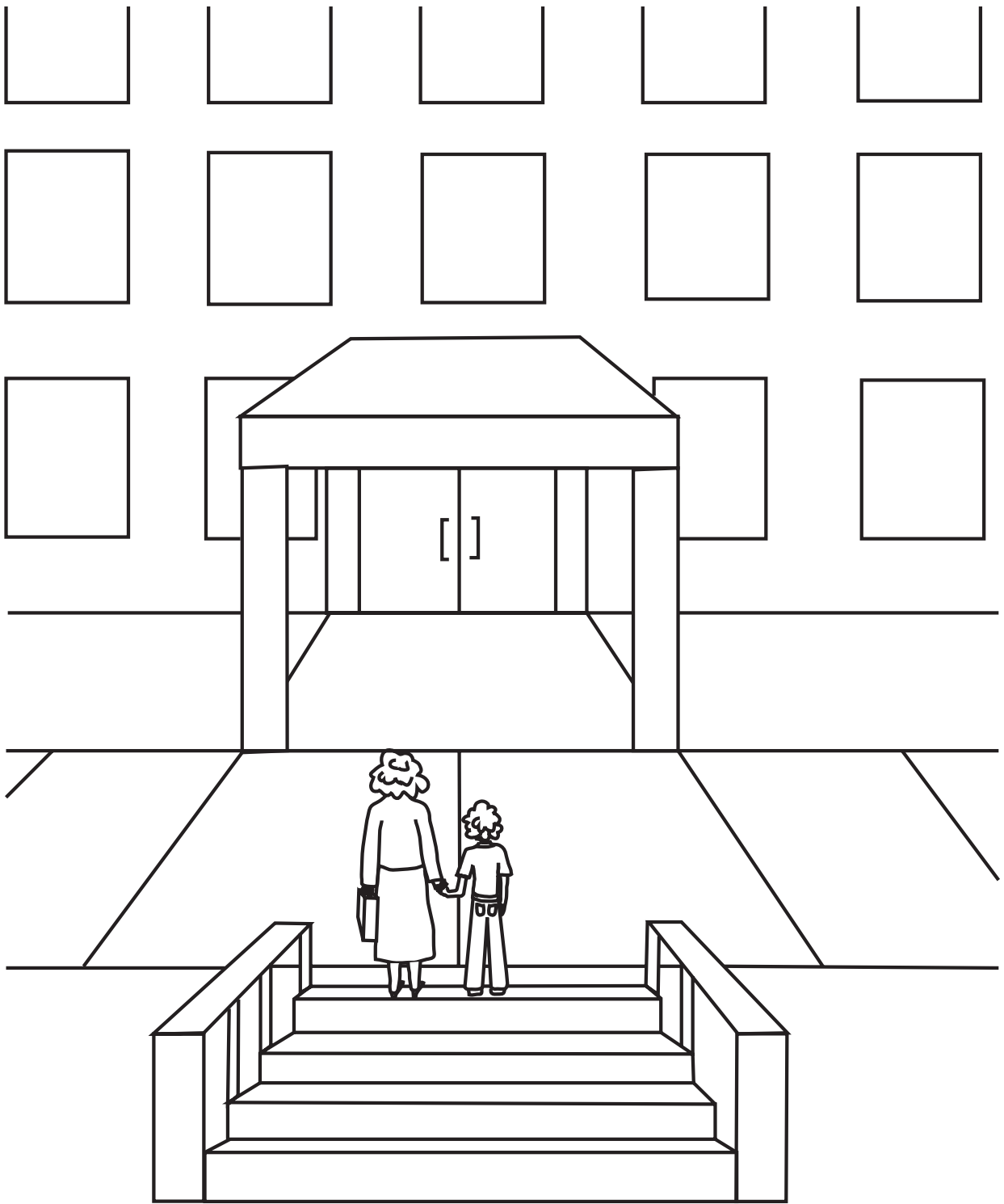


Alex's stomach jumps with butterflies while getting ready for a busy day.
Today a judge will decide where Alex will live.



Alex's social worker, Marta, drives Alex to the court building. "Who's going to be there?" Alex asks Marta. "Lots of people like me who want to help you," Marta explains.

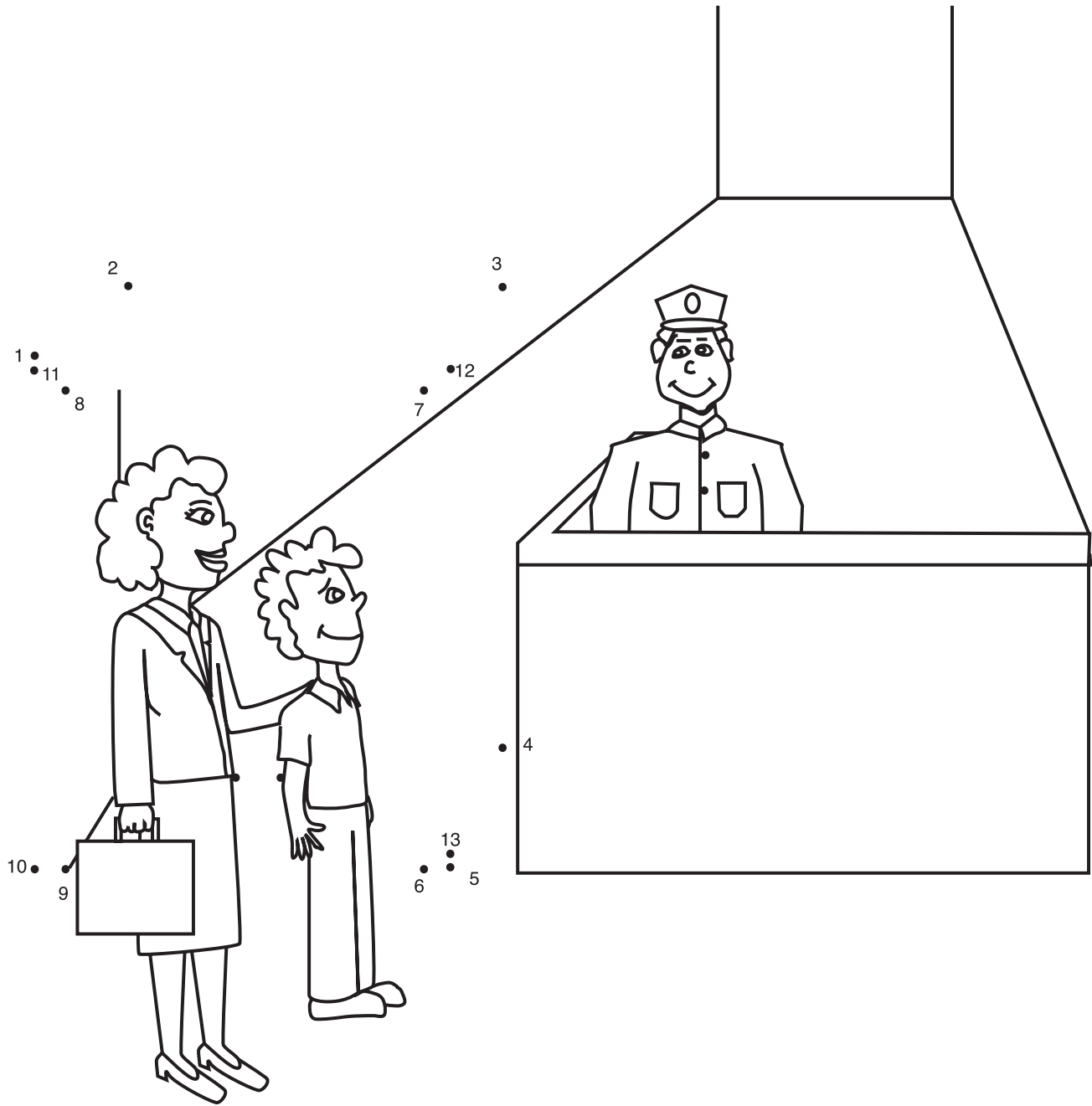
Who is your social worker? _____



Alex feels a little nervous when they arrive at the court building because it's such a big place bustling with serious looking people.

Circle the emotions that best describe how you feel.

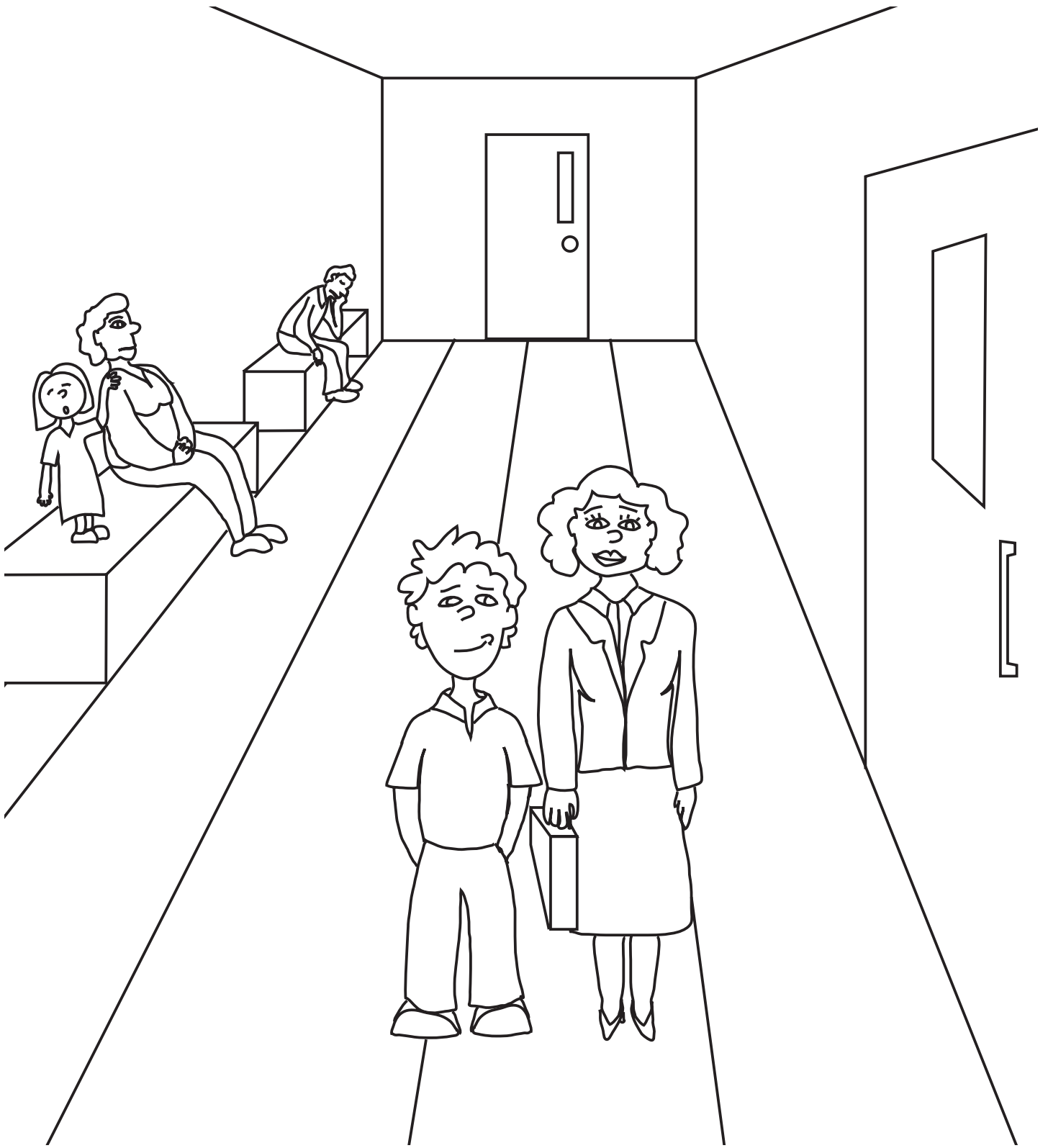
Anxious Excited Confused Angry Sad Worried Happy Hopeful



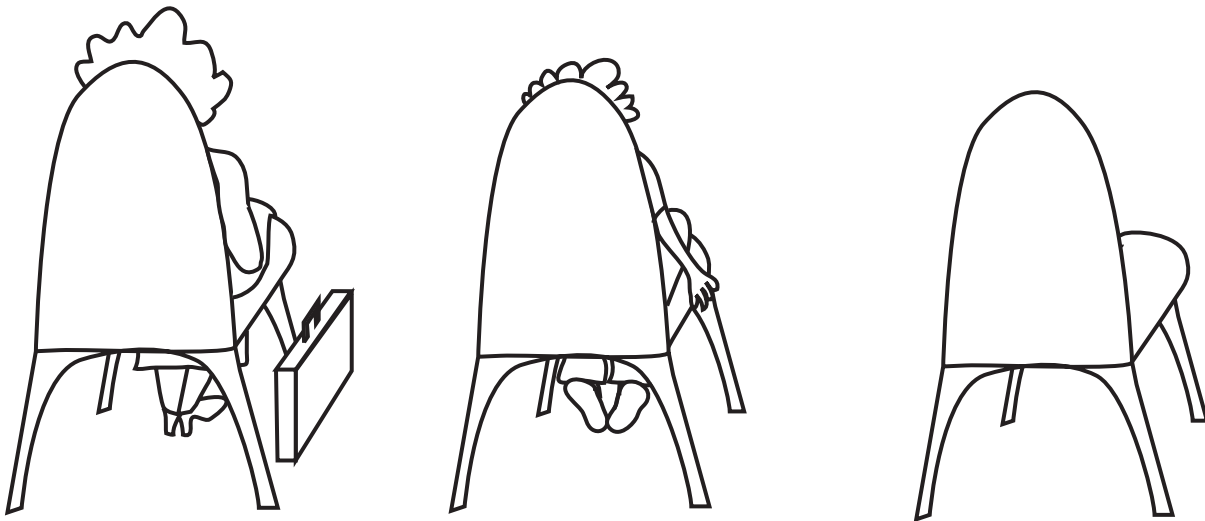
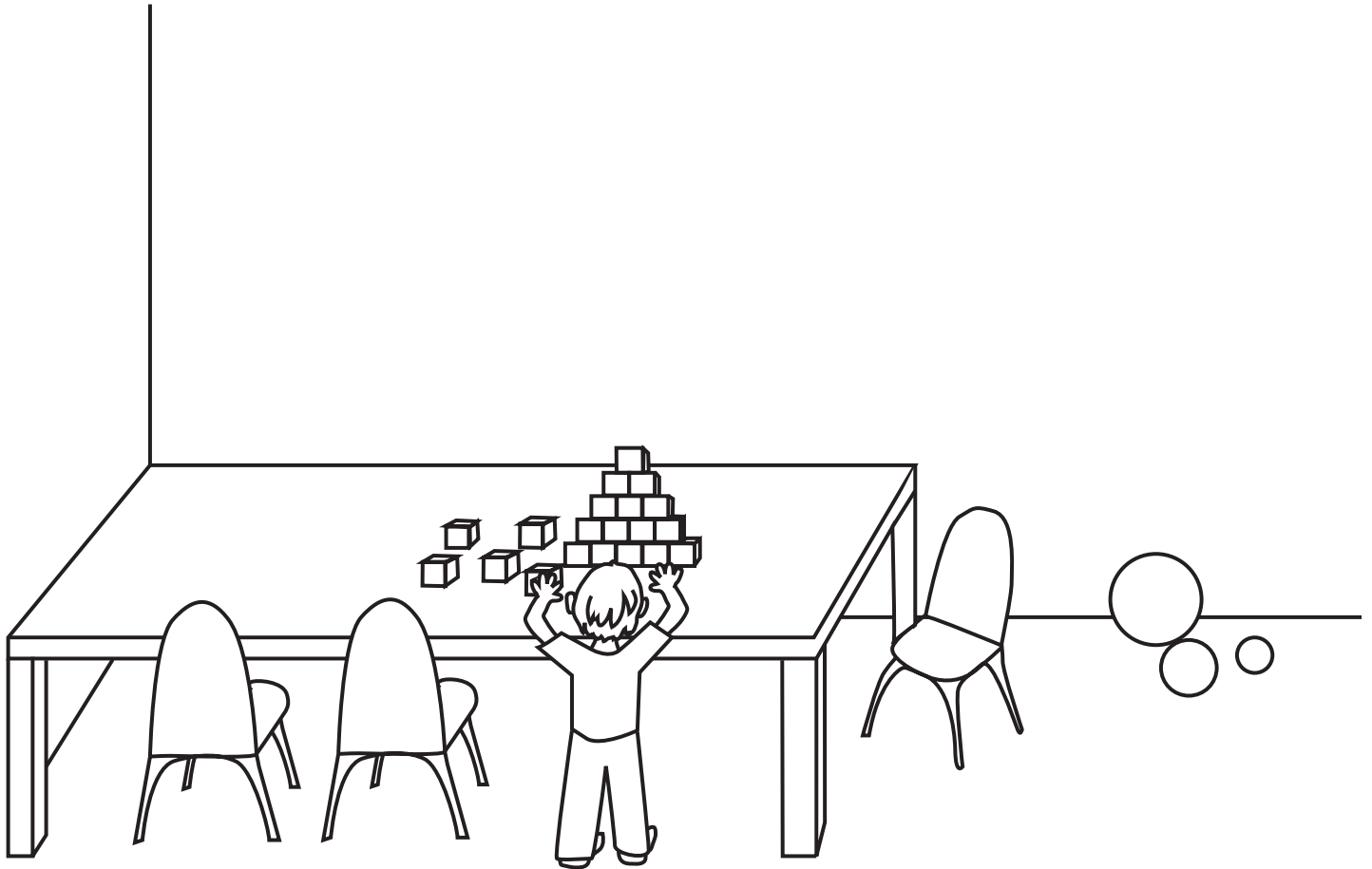
Alex and Marta see a large desk and doorway after they enter the courthouse. "This machine helps the police make sure everyone is safe in this building" Marta tells Alex.

Have you ever walked through a doorway like this one? _____

Connect the numbered dots in this picture.



The grownup's shoes make noise when they walk down the long hallway. There are benches along the wall where kids and adults can sit.



Alex and Marta wait in a big room filled with chairs, toys, grownups, kids, and, this time, some relatives. Alex thinks about all the people they've met and the interesting jobs they do. Maybe Alex will be a judge someday.

What do you want to be when you grow up?



Someone comes in to get Alex and Marta when it's their turn to see the judge. When they leave the room, Alex wonders how the other kids are feeling.



Alex goes with the Guardian Ad Litem, who is a lawyer for children, to sit at the big table. The Guardian Ad Litem's job is to tell the judge what Alex wants and what is best for Alex.

Who is your Guardian Ad Litem? _____



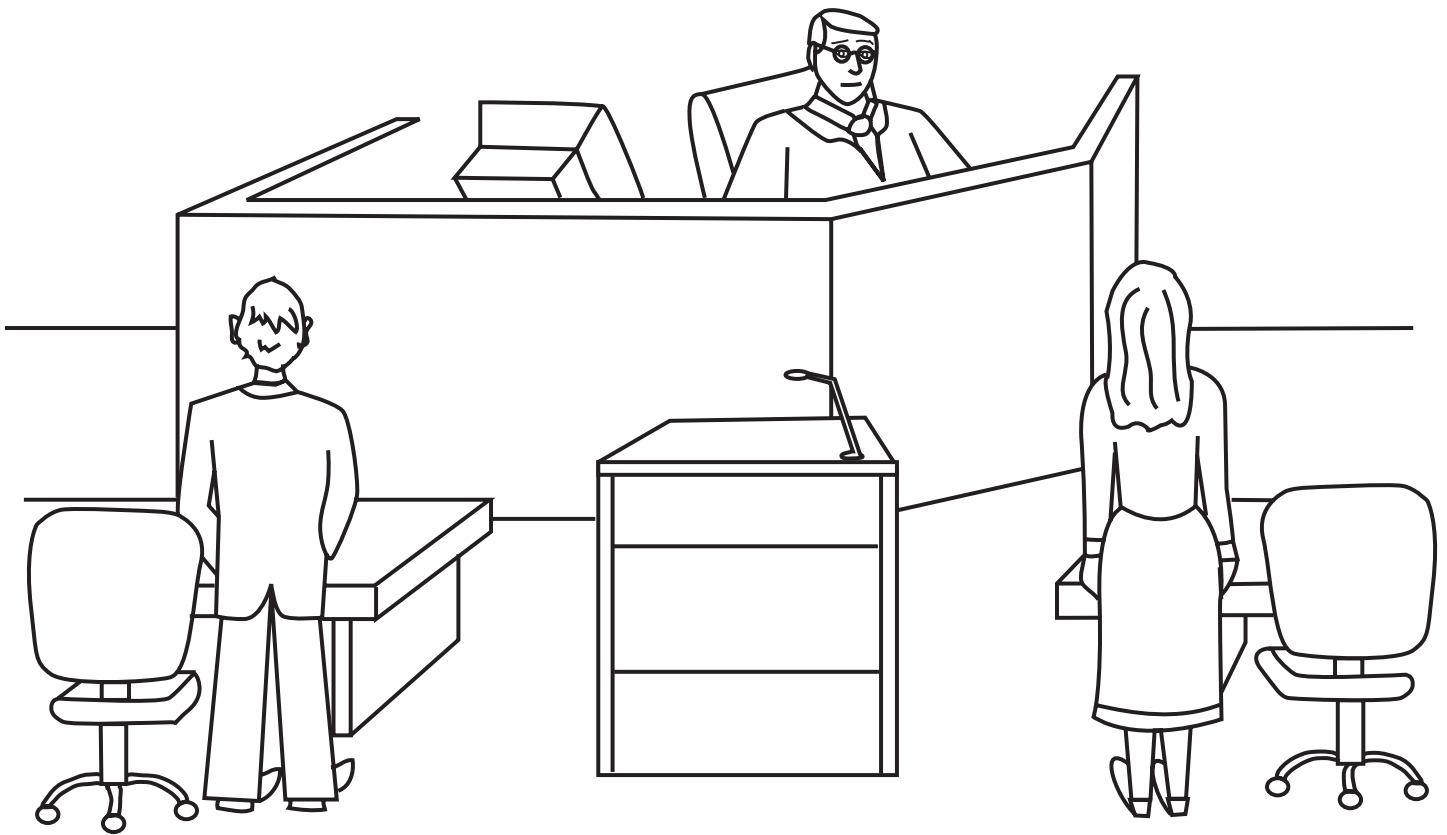
Directly in front of Alex stands a huge desk, where the judge sits.
On the desk there is a computer.
There is also a witness stand where people sometimes sit to answer questions.

Who is your judge? _____



There are many familiar people sitting behind Alex: social workers, court appointed special advocates (or CASA's), and even some family members, all here because they care about Alex.

Do you have a CASA? _____ If you do, who is your CASA? _____



Everyone is quiet when the judge speaks. The adults stand to say who they are.
There are many people who talk to the judge.

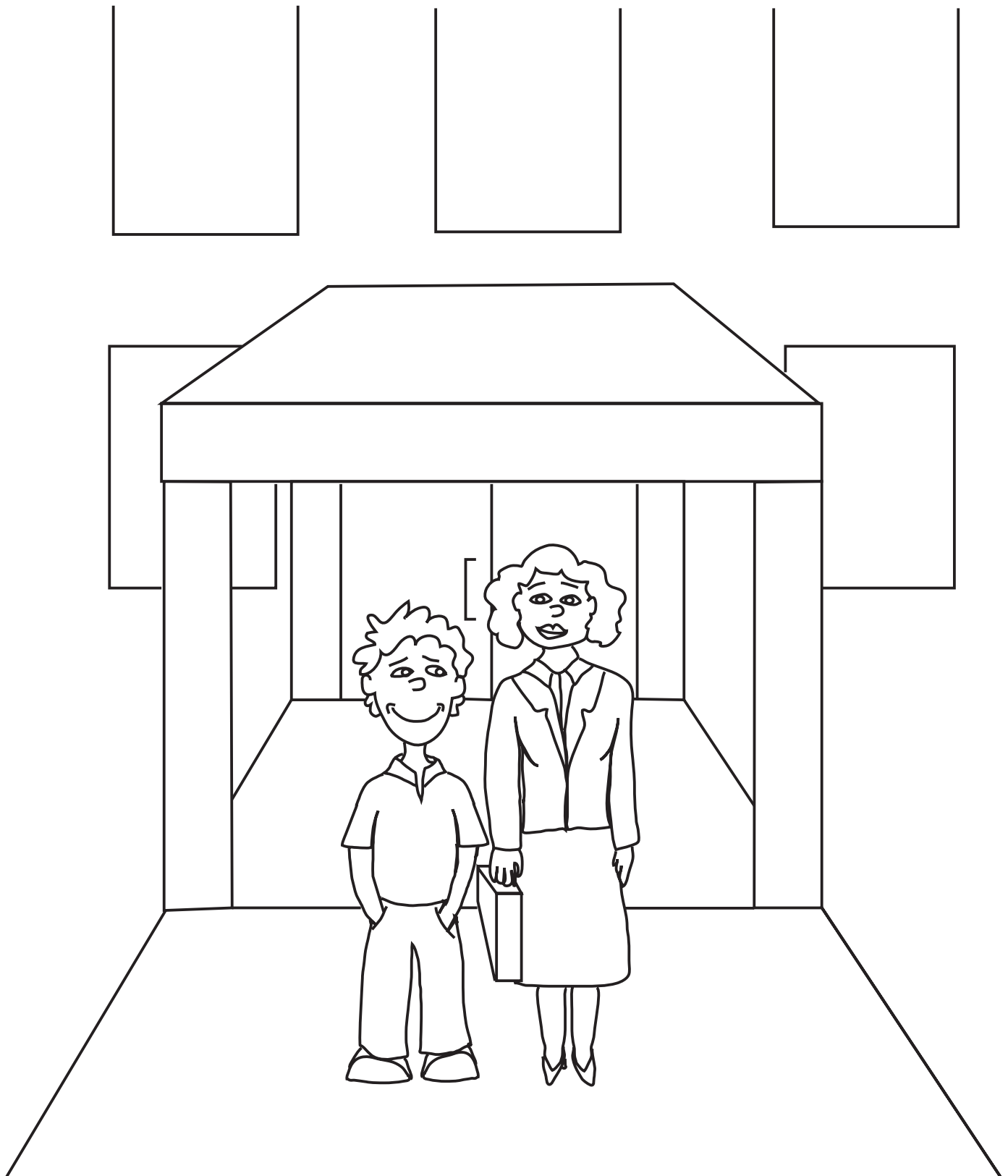
What do people do when the judge walks into the courtroom?



Alex waits until the GAL is not talking to whisper a question to him, "How long will this part take?" "Just a few minutes, Alex," he responds.



Alex feels a little sad when the grownups all talk about Alex's family. Alex knows they're all here to help. The judge listens to everyone and decides what will happen next. Although the hearing goes by quickly, Alex wonders what the judge will say.



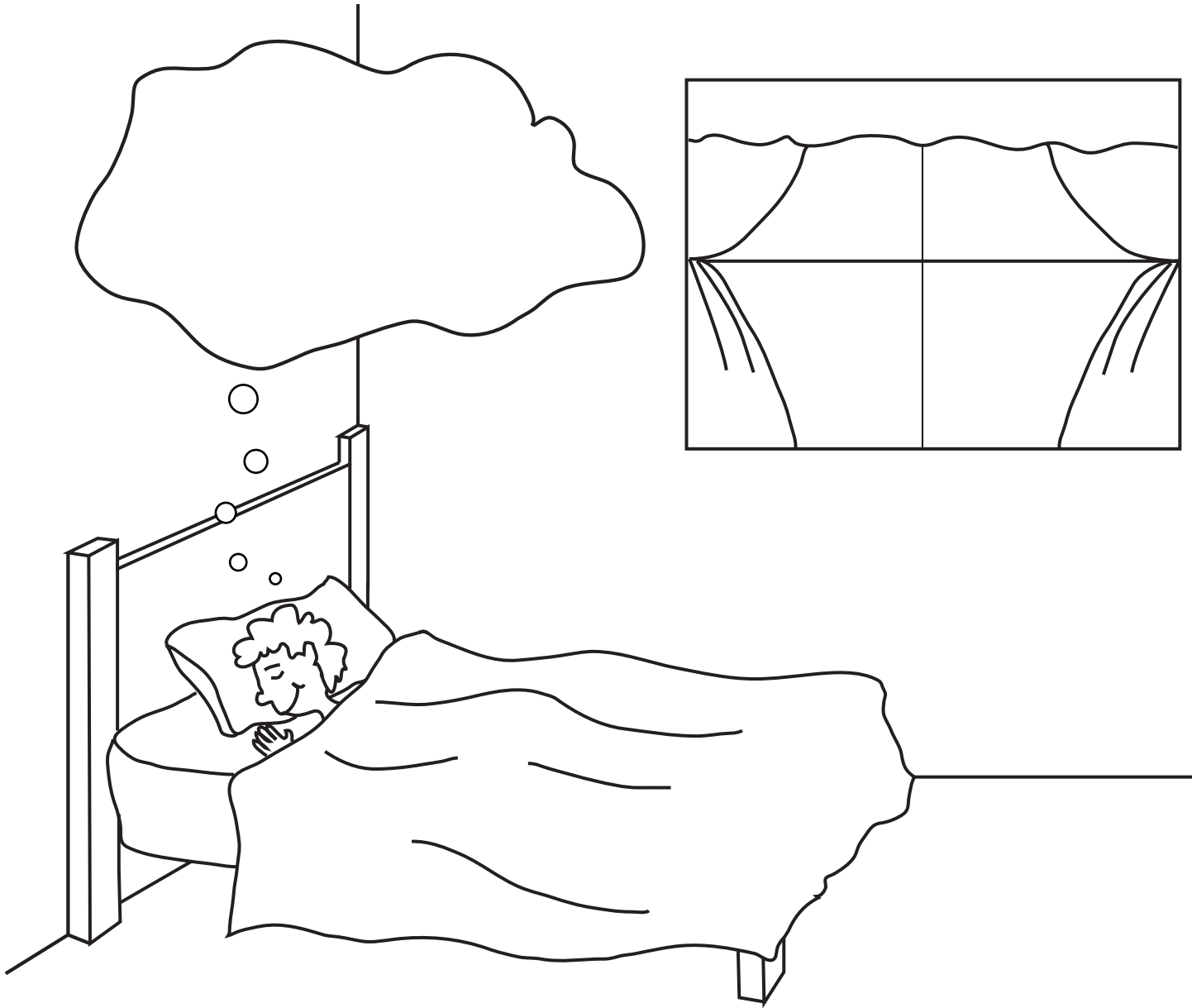
When they leave the courthouse, Alex feels tired from the busy day, but is glad to see how many people care.



Alex is not sure what will happen next.
But, Alex knows that everyone wants Alex to be safe and happy.

What are some things that make you happy?

Draw a picture of something that makes you feel happy.



Before going to bed, Alex thinks about the things that happened today. Maybe tomorrow Alex will draw a picture of what happened when Alex went to court.



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